



Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Timothy Firestone, Chief Administrator Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director
Arthur Edmunds, UCAB Chair

November 23, 2016

**Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board
Joint Meeting
of
Quality of Life Committee and Land Use Committee
Monday, December 5 7:00pm-9:00pm
Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown**

Topic: The Status of State Roads in Upcounty

Guest: Christopher Bishop, District 3, State Highway Administration

The board's two standing committees will meet together to hear an update on various State road projects that are planned or underway in the northern part of the county.

All board and their committee meetings are open to the public!

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, please call 240-777-8040 or email a request to catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov.

**SafeTrack Surge #11: Continuous Single Tracking, West Falls Church to East Falls Church
November 28-December 21**

Reminder: Metrorail now closing at midnight Friday and Saturday nights

Beginning at 5:00 a.m. next Monday, November 28 until closing, Wednesday, December 21, Orange Line trains will continuously single track between West Falls Church and East Falls Church.

A full list of travel alternatives and additional information is posted at wmata.com/safetrack. The current schedule of all Safety Surges is available on WMATA's [website](http://wmata.com).



Live Discussion with County Executive Ike Leggett

Tuesday, November 29 2:00pm-3:00pm

- [Submit Your Question](#)

Small Business Saturday! November 26

County Executive Isiah Leggett asks that we “Shop Small” and support Small Business Saturday on November 26. Small business owners rely on a thriving local community that shops close to home. Be sure to share your pictures while shopping or dining locally using [#SmallBizSat](#) [#ShopSmall](#) [#DineSmall](#).



Stand Up for the Montgomery Way!

County Executive Ike Leggett, County Councilmembers and other public officials, faith leaders, and neighbors came together with a crowd of more than 1,000 people on Sunday at Veterans Plaza, in Silver Spring, to reaffirm the County's stance of diversity, inclusion, and respect for all – the core values that have made Montgomery County a model community. [See more photos from flickr](#) [Watch the event from YouTube](#)

The City of Gaithersburg also issued a statement of their commitment “to ensure that Gaithersburg remains a community of inclusion, understanding, dignity, and hope.” See their statement on civility and engagement at <http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/news/press-releases/2016/11/20161121-statement-on-civility>

A Consumer Alert from the Office of Consumer Protection . . .

See Consumer Alert #15 for tips to know during the holiday season. <https://youtu.be/EUZIM4XoSI>

Leggett Hails News of County's 2016 Triple-A Bond Rating; County Among Best in Nation for Fiscal Responsibility

County Executive Ike Leggett recently announced that Montgomery County has maintained its Triple-A bond rating for 2016 from three Wall Street bond rating agencies. Fitch, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's all affirmed the “AAA” rating – the highest achievable -- for the County. They all termed the outlook for Montgomery County as “stable.”

The Triple-A bond rating enables Montgomery County to sell long-term bonds at the most favorable rates, saving County taxpayers millions of dollars over the life of the bonds. The rating also serves as a benchmark for numerous other financial transactions, ensuring the lowest possible costs in those areas as well.

See press release at http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=17581 for more.

Leggett's Streamlining Continues to Yield Big Rewards with Improvements to Permitting Services that Save Residents and Businesses Money and Time; Time Required for Commercial Permitting Services Down More Than 50 Percent

Today Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett announced significant improvements in the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) processing times. The commercial permitting processing time has been reduced over the past two years from an average of 25 weeks to an average of 12 weeks. This is a 52 percent improvement. Plans are completing initial reviews in 20-30 calendar days and solar permits, which have increased dramatically in volume, have a three to five days turn around. A total of 60,543 permits and licenses were processed in fiscal year 2016, which is a 20 percent increase in volume over 2013 and a 63 percent increase in work volume in 2009. This is customer service and customer friendly.

These improvements are in addition to all of the progress that has been made with development plans which, only a few short years ago before the extensive cross-agency streamlining effort, had taken one to two years or more. The streamlining work coupled with the rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance proposed by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and adopted by the County Council has reduced the multi-year process for site plans to a 120-day process.

Montgomery County welcomes and supports business activities. The recent opening of Clarksburg Premium Outlets in record time is testament to the streamlining and to the improvements at Permitting Services.

Read more http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=17562



“Safe Exchange Zones” Provide Secure Places for In-Person Internet Transaction Exchanges

“Safe Exchange Zones” are clearly marked areas in the parking lot of a well-lighted police station for people to meet to complete their Internet transactions with less fear of criminal activity. The idea seems to have started last year in Florida and now areas in police station parking lots across the country have been designated.

The Gaithersburg City Police Department has set up a dedicated location in its parking lot for residents to use when conducting in-person internet transaction exchanges. The exchange parking lot spaces are under video surveillance at all times and are available for public use 7 days a week from 8:00am to 9:00pm. The police station lobby can also be used for buyer and seller transactions. It is open daily from 8:00am to 9:00pm. Learn more about this program and online transaction security [here](#)

The Montgomery County 5th Police District Station in Germantown has also designated an exchange area in their parking lot.

Updates from Department of Environmental Protection . . .

Gunners Lake Dredge Project

The dredging project is complete, and site restoration is underway. The project removed just over 17,200 cubic yards of sediment. The next step is establishing some lovely green grass. The construction fence will remain in place until sod is installed and the County's sediment control inspector verifies that the site is stabilized. There is no set date at this time, but the contractor will be installing sod in the coming weeks.

Lake Whetstone Dredge Project

This update is about the riser repair project. As you may have noticed, the contractor has installed orange safety fence around the lake. Additionally, the trash rack is off of the riser structure and a crane is on the lake. Starting today or tomorrow, the lake's water level will be reduced by approximately 4 feet for the duration of the project which is slated to be completed by March.

For details on both projects, visit Environmental Protection's website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep>

MCDOT's Division of Transportation Engineering is Making Progress on Major Construction Projects

Montgomery County Transportation Department's Division of Transportation Engineering designs and constructs transportation systems and infrastructure, including bikeways, sidewalks, transit facilities, ADA ramps, roads and storm drains and inspects, maintains and builds bridges. [Click here for a list of current projects](http://gomontgomery.blogspot.com/2016/11/mcdots-division-of-transportation.html) or visit <http://gomontgomery.blogspot.com/2016/11/mcdots-division-of-transportation.html>

A message from Our Community Police Officers . . .

While shopping, please lock your vehicle at all times and keep valuables out of sight. It is recommended that if you are shopping at multiple stores that you move your vehicle every time you put packages into it. Criminals will wait in the parking lot to see who places packages in the vehicle then walks away to another store giving them a large window of opportunity to break into your vehicle and steal your packages. Remember to park in well-lit areas and be mindful of your surroundings.

While traveling, think about using an automatic timer for your house lights to give the appearance that someone is home. Also ask a trusted neighbor to watch your home and to pick up your mail if you don't have it temporarily stopped. You don't want to tip burglars off that you are away for an extended period of time. As always, please report any suspicious activity to the police department. We can't guarantee a crime won't occur but hardening the target (making it less convenient to commit the crime) will increase your chances of not becoming a victim.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

For other news and meeting agendas, visit:

County Council http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/press_List.aspx?id=01

Planning Board http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/departments/news_releases

Also check out the latest from:

Department of Public Libraries <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>

Department of Recreation <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/rec/index.asp>

Department of Transportation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html>

Department of Environmental Protection <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/deatmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/dephome/index.asp>

Department of Permitting Services <http://permitting.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/general/Home.aspx>

Montgomery County Volunteer Center <http://www.montgomeryserves.org>

Office of Community Partnerships <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs100/1102184431012/archive/1117215431562.html>

Commission for Women <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/index.html>